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Tonkin incident and principles

With RAY MARTIN

Last Sunday I referred to Camp Peary, which is not far from Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia, and its use for the last 20 years as a training base for the Central Intelligence Agency.

It indicated that strong evidence existed to suggest that personnel trained at Camp Peary provoked the Gulf of Tonkin incident in August, 1964, with a series of massacres of North Vietnamese fishing villages using CIA gunboats. The Tonkin incident led to American air and ground combat involvement in the Vietnam War.

Two days after the Tonkin incident, Walt Rostow said in the State Department dining room: "We don't know what happened, but it had the desired result."

Our government had discovered the way to legitimize the war. By provoking the North in a way that made it look as if the U.S. had been innocently attacked, a wider war could be made palatable to the American public.

Reported activities of the CIA make those of the Army's Counter Intelligence Corps exposed by Sen. Sam Ervin, D-N.C., look like a children's tea party.

The CIA has millions of files on civilians stored by microphotography; has enough military weapons and equipment to outfit two military divisions; is believed to be testing weapons, which include: a laser beam used by "kill teams" to cause bodily deterioration within 24 hours; experimental formulas of psychotropic drugs such as LSD; and various chemical warfare agents. Also on the testing agenda are mini-nuclear bombs.

Reportedly the CIA keeps the mouths of former employees closed

through threats against their families, the possibility of being sent to jail on trumped up charges and possibility of death at the hands of another CIA agent.

Unless the Congress itself has been so intimidated by the CIA that it is powerless to act, the national legislature should undertake an investigation which would reveal what a clear and present danger the people of Williamsburg and the nation have been living with all these years.

Today's CIA came into being as part of the National Intelligence Authority established by a directive of President Harry S. Truman on Jan. 22, 1946. NIA's mission was to plan, develop and coordinate federal foreign intelligence activities related to national security.

NIA ceased to exist upon creation of the Central Intelligence Agency under the National Security Council which was embodied in the provisions of the National Security Act of 1947. Personnel, property and records of NIA's Central Intelligence Group were transferred to the CIA.

The NSC is composed of the President, the vice president, the secretary of state, the secretary of defense and the director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness.

President John F. Kennedy, appalled at the military incompetence shown by the Bay of Pigs fiasco in the spring of 1961 and embarrassed by the public image it created, was determined to make sure that the covert activities of the CIA did not contradict U.S.

foreign policy and that they were not beyond the capabilities of the military.

This determination took the form of what became known as the 303 Committee, taking its name from the room number at the Executive Office Building where it met once a week. Theoretically no covert activity was to be undertaken without advance approval of the 303 Committee.

CIA activities have been shrouded in secrecy — even from members of Congress — and to this day it is authorized to perform for the benefit of the existing intelligence agencies such services as the NSC determines can be more efficiently accomplished centrally. Under the cloak of national security, CIA personnel can do anything else directed by the NSC.